

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application with Claims 19-24 being withdrawn.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Leonardi et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2001/0022384) ("Leonardi "). The Examiner further rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Boyd et al. (US Patent No. 5,352,923) ("Boyd"). The Examiner further rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Camenzind et al. (US Patent No. 3,619,739) ("Camenzind").

The Examiner further rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hatanaka (US Patent No. 6,566,226) ("Hatanaka").

The Examiner further objected to Claims 2-6 and 8-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that that these claims would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claim.

The Examiner further indicated that Claims 13-18 were allowable over the prior art of record.

In response to the rejection of independent Claim 1 in view of Leonardi, Boyd, Camenzind and the rejection of Claim 7 in view of Hatanaka, applicants are canceling these claims.

As the Examiner indicated that Claims 2 and 8 presented allowable subject matter if placed in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim, Claims 2 and 8

are being amended to re-cast them in independent form. Respectfully, amended independent Claims 2 and 8 are directed to a series or array of trenches, and not in the singular, and thus, as the Examiner correctly indicated, present patentable subject matter.

As such, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



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